

## **Final Report of Child Fatality or Near Fatality**

Date Prepared: 8/7/14

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DOB: 04/02/10                      Race: W                      Gender: F

Type of Report:              ☒ Fatality                      ☐ Near Fatality

Date of Fatality or Near Fatality: 7/4/12

### **Cause and Circumstances of the Child Fatality or Near Fatality**

Date Report Accepted for Investigation: 7/2/12

Summary of Allegations: On 7/2/12, SCDSS received a report that alleged the minor child had bruises on her back. The reporter alleged the minor child had rectal bruising and possibly a rectal tear. The reporter alleged the mother had no explanation for the bruising.

Date Investigation Initiated: 7/2/12

Case Decision: The case was indicated for substantial risk of physical neglect and substantial risk of physical abuse by the mother. The case was also indicated for physical abuse and substantial risk of physical abuse by the caretaker.

Date of Case Decision: 8/31/12

Basis for Case Decision: Based upon medical records, the child suffered an acute hypoxic insult (failure of oxygen delivery to her brain) on 7/2/12 after the caregiver discovered the child unresponsive. Her injury resulted in death and is consistent with a smothering type of event or compression of her major neck arteries and with an inflicted abusive event. The child had other bruising on various parts of her body. The mother could not explain the bruising. She was not able to provide adequate supervision, maintain housing, or utilities.

### **The Department's Response After the Fatality or Near Fatality**

SCDSS implemented a Safety Plan with the family that stated one of the siblings would remain in the care of the paternal grandmother. The other sibling remained in the care of a family friend until the maternal aunt was able to care for the child. The mother was allowed to have supervised contact with children.

SCDSS provided a referral to parenting education, for a psychological evaluation, and case management and monitoring through a family preservation case.

The case closed on 3/26/14 with relatives retaining custody of the deceased child's siblings.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Fatality or Near Fatality

The family had no prior child protective services history.